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NEW HUNGARIAN LAW ON STATISTICAL SERVICE

The proposed new law on national statistics was introduced by Istvan Varga in the 20 December 1952 session of the National Assembly. Varga, speaking at the session, said that the current Hungarian law on statistics is obsolete and that the Central Statistical Office must be reorganized to conform to the Soviet model. The first paragraph of the proposed law states that statistics are a means for the control and guidance of Hungary's eco- nomic, social, and cultural development. Statistics serve to disclose eco- nomic and social phenomena, report on the fulfillment of economic plans, and direct attention to shortcomings.

The proposed law, Varga continued, guarantees all these requirements. Following the Soviet example, Hungarian statisticians must be trained in specialized university courses. Under the proposed law, the statisticians must have professional qualification.

Janos Szita, the next speaker at the session, said that, despite good progress made in recent years, the Hungarian statistical service still has many defects. In certain fields it is not sufficiently speedy and vigi- lant. Often, important phenomena which are capable of numerical analysis are not discovered by the statistical agencies. Moveover, the statistical service is unified in a single organization. The proposed legislation, Szita said, has two main objects: (1) it consolidates the statistical organizations established in recent years, and (2) outlines the methods to be employed for raising statistical discipline as well as the standards of the statistical service.

Endre Toth discussed one of the basic provisions of the proposed law, namely, the expansion of the network of local statistical agencies sub- ordinated to the Central Statistical Office. The main task of this network is to gather statistical data and to transmit it in adequate form to the Central Statistical Office. Another task of the local network is to advise the local party and government agencies.

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Statistical work, Toth added, has always been a tool of the class struggle. Currently, the class struggle in Hungary is sharpest in agriculture. Agricultural statistics can achieve much in the class struggle and has already produced some results.

In conclusion, Toth said that the proposed law creates a militant statistical service, designed to reveal class enemy attacks as well as the government's weak points.

The law on national statistics was then passed by the National Assembly.

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